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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

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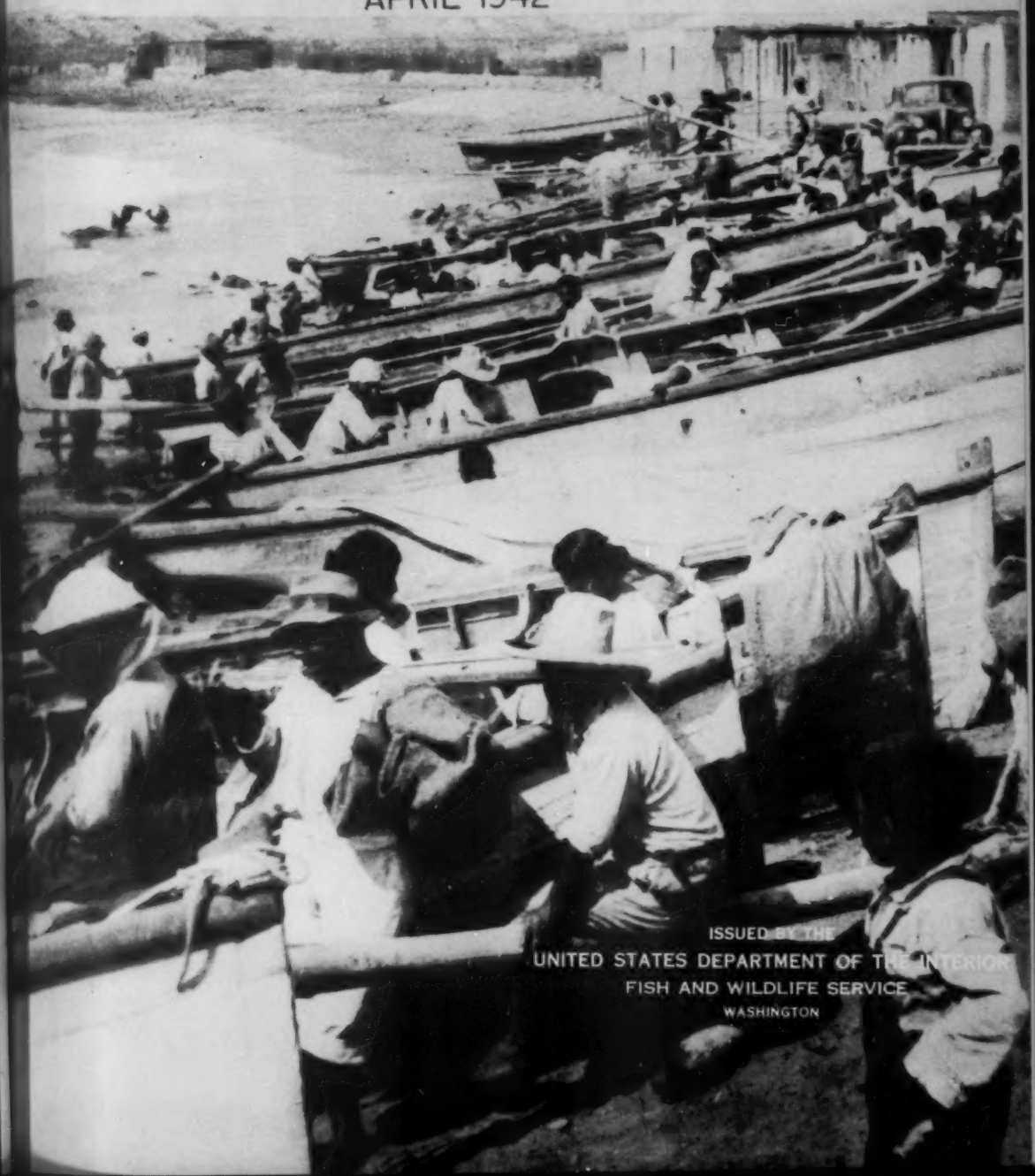

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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

A REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

April 1942 Washington, D. C. Vol. 4, No. 4

SUMMARY

Special Articles

Potential Production of Groundfish Livers in New England.--Increasing demand for vitamin-bearing oils has been reflected in groundfish liver prices: at certain New England ports livers jumped in 1941 from 3.8 to 6.1 cents per pound. Quantities landed kept pace with price, with 338,000 pounds in January 1940, as against 1,062,000 pounds in November 1941. The potential yield is shown as 50 percent over actual production figures.

Fisheries of New York State, 1941.--A 1940-41 comparison survey of 21 species, together with sections on the fillet industry and canning and byproducts, are summarized in this article. Possibilities of new industries are indicated in surf clams and swellfish.

Landings of Fishery Products at Boston, Massachusetts, 1941.--About 303,560,000 pounds of salt-water fish, worth $11,682,000, were landed and sold at Boston last year--a 21 and 35 percent increase, respectively, over volume and value of 1940. A complete analysis of the 1941 figures precedes monthly indexes of combined landings and average prices.

New England's Alewife Fishery as a Potential Food Resource.--The alewife, or river herring, fishery is a neglected one, with a potential annual yield of perhaps twice over its present 4,000,000 pounds. Here is a source of protein yield to be utilized.

Fresh Fish

During the last week of March, the comprehensive index of prices of nearly 900 wholesale series rose again slightly, by 0.2 percent, to 97.4 percent of the 1926 level--the highest since the autumn of 1928.

Three-port landings (Portland, Me., Boston and Gloucester, Mass.) totaled 11.6 million pounds worth $766,000 for February, with radical weighted average price-per-pound rises in all principal species except rosefish, cod and gray sole.

Chesapeake Bay's fisheries netted a 320.7 million pound catch worth $7.4 million in 1940, with Virginia out-producing Maryland almost 2 to 1 in value, over 5 to 1 in volume.

The Lake States produced 79.2 million pounds of fishery products worth $5.6 million in 1940, a drop of about 6 million pounds but worth over $1 million more than in 1939.

February's receipts in Chicago dropped 5 percent from the previous month but, due to increased Green Bay area ice fishing, smelt shipments were up 209 percent.

A ½ million pound increase in the Area 3 quota under the 1942 International Fisheries Commission regulations indicates a normal general outlook for the Pacific halibut fishery.

Frozen Fish

Holdings in domestic cold-storage plants of only 62 million pounds as of March 15 show a decrease of 25 percent under the previous month, but 33 percent over the 5-year average on that date. Freezings in many principal items showed high seasonal rises, with a general volume 38 percent over the 5-year average for the month prior to March 15 and a 10 percent gain over the previous monthly period.

Canned Fish

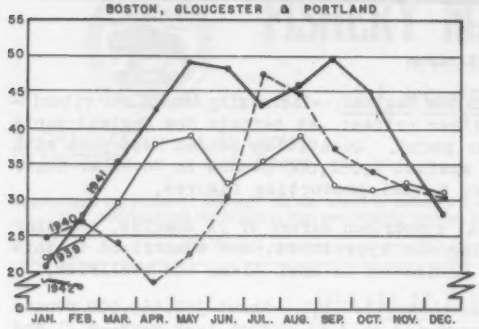
Canners' unsold stocks of salmon were almost nil at the end of March, with but 58,000 cases reported as against a 10-year average of about 2 million at this period.

Shrimp packers were inactive in March, with most of them not quoting prices on April 1. Tuna and mackerel packs also were far down. The sardine pack for California, however, was up 71 percent over last season on March 20.

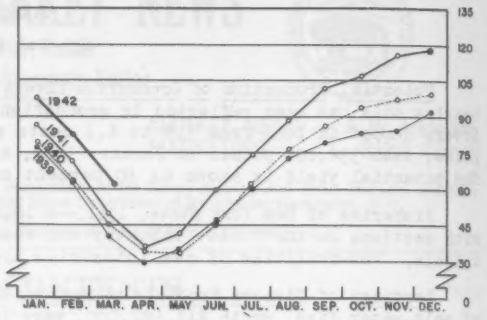
TRENDS OF FISHERY TRADE

In millions of pounds

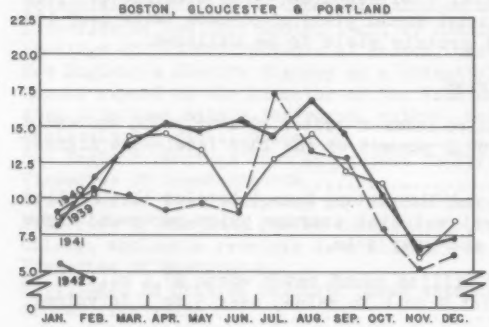
VESSEL LANDINGS, ALL FRESH FISH
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



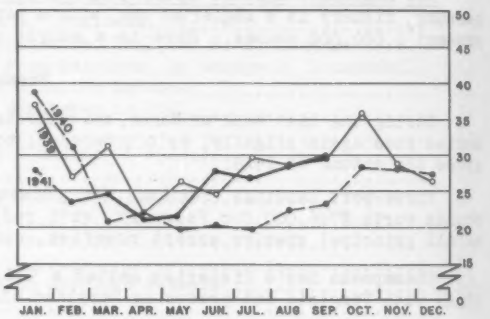
DOMESTIC COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN FISH



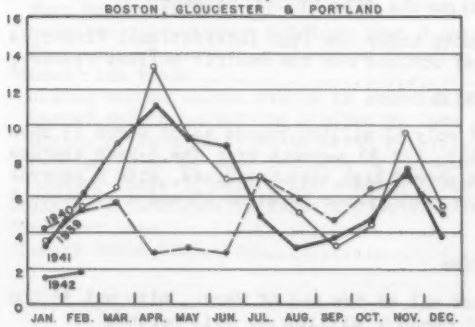
VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH HADDOCK
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



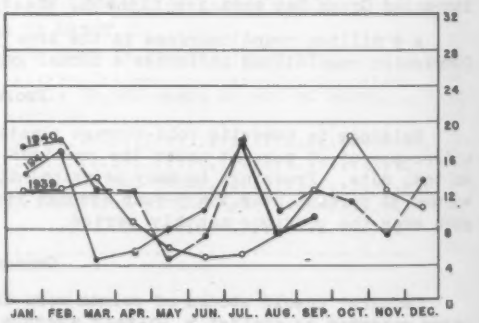
IMPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH COD
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



EXPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



POTENTIAL PRODUCTION OF GROUNDFISH LIVERS IN NEW ENGLAND

By
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Cambridge, Massachusetts

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The increasing demand for fish liver oils in the United States, resulting from the War, is reflected in the prices paid for groundfish--haddock, cod, pollock, hake and cusk--livers at Boston, Gloucester, and Portland. Nearly all of the livers landed in New England are handled through these ports. The average price per pound in 1940 was three cents while in 1941 it was five cents. During the course of 1941 alone, the price increased from 3.8 cents in January to 6.1 cents in December.

The quantity landed has increased along with the price. In January 1940, it reached 338,000 pounds and in November 1941, 1,062,000 pounds. In December, landings decreased somewhat due to the decline in groundfish landings and probably to a decrease in the average liver weight.

Source of supply.--Livers have been saved on nearly all types of boats fishing for groundfish, including large, medium and small otter trawlers and line trawlers, but the large otter trawlers provide much the greatest proportion of the supply. This is because these boats not only land the greatest poundage of groundfish but also they do a much more complete job of saving livers than the other boats. During March, June, September, and December of 1941, large otter trawlers landed 466 groundfish trips at Boston and saved livers on 425 trips (91 percent). Medium otter trawlers landed 286 trips, saving livers on 107 (37 percent). Line trawlers landed 117 trips. Livers were saved on 59 (50 percent). On trips when livers were saved the relative quantities averaged about the same for the three types of gear, by weight averaging 3.4 percent of the groundfish poundage for large otter trawlers, 3.6 percent for medium otter trawlers, and 3.2 percent for line trawlers. The latter, however, was the most variable, being 1.5 percent in March and 6.3 percent in September.

Potential supply.--From the foregoing data it is evident that the quantity of livers landed during 1941 was nowhere near the total that might be obtained under the best conditions. Theoretically the maximum quantity can be calculated by multiplying the poundage of groundfish caught by the percent that the liver weight is of the body weight. Although adequate data are not available to obtain this percentage by species and seasons, scattered observations indicate that an overall average liver weight lies between 8 and 10 percent. For a number of reasons which will be discussed later this theoretical total never will be reached in actual practice. For practical purposes a more reasonable figure can be obtained by examining the best production of livers by boats working under present conditions. Percentages of livers were obtained from liver weights and total groundfish weights (omitting round scrod) for individual trips in March, June, September, and December of 1941. These percentages then were segregated for large and medium otter trawlers and line trawlers. In March, the average for all large otter trawler trips was 2.4 percent, but the highest 5 percent of the trips averaged 4.6 percent. In June, the average of all trips was 2.6 percent with the best 5 percent of the trips averaging 5.5 percent. In September, all trips averaged 3.5 percent and the best 5 percent, 6.3 percent. In December, all trips averaged 3.8 percent and the best 5 percent, 7.2 percent. The averages for all other types of gear were lower than this except for line trawlers in September when the average of all trips was 5.1 percent.

Assuming that the large otter trawler experience provides the best example of the quantity of livers that can be obtained from a given poundage of groundfish, then these data indicate that under good conditions with the crews interested in saving all possible livers, the percentages reached should be at least: March - 4.6 percent, June - 5.5 percent, September - 6.3 percent, and December 7.2 percent or an average of about 5.9 percent for the year. At this rate the total poundage for the year would have been about 15,700,000 pounds instead of the 7,250,000 pounds actually landed. This estimate for potential yield still is a minimum for it is known that not all livers were saved even on the best 5 percent of the trips.

Landings of Groundfish* Livers at Boston, Gloucester and Portland, 1941

Month	Livers			Groundfish* landings	Average percent of livers saved		Theoretical possible savings of livers based on highest 5 percent of trips
	Volume	Value	Average price		All trips	Highest 5 percent**	
1941	Pounds	Dollars	Cents	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds
January	396,008	15,086	3.81	13,782,034	2.87	-	-
February	483,459	19,232	3.98	19,826,385	2.43	-	-
March	434,867	19,952	4.59	24,715,084	1.76	4.6	1,140,000
April	424,758	15,502	3.65	28,301,739	1.50	-	-
May	440,728	23,363	5.30	25,597,422	1.72	-	-
June	500,984	23,294	4.65	25,886,496	1.93	5.5	1,420,000
July	576,083	25,700	4.46	20,945,425	2.75	-	-
August	598,191	29,096	4.87	19,806,815	3.02	-	-
September	782,709	38,633	4.94	21,406,398	3.66	6.3	1,350,000
October	835,176	45,324	5.42	19,640,826	4.25	-	-
November	1,062,054	63,002	5.94	25,571,271	4.17	-	-
December	716,842	43,434	6.06	19,936,912	3.60	7.2	1,440,000
Total	7,251,859	361,618	-	265,416,807	-	-	15,700,000
Average	-	-	4.99	-	2.73	5.9	-

* Haddock, cod, pollock, hake, cusk. ** Large otter trawlers.

Factors Limiting the Production of Livers.--Probably the principal limitation on liver production has been that it is a byproduct of secondary rather than primary importance. This was necessarily so since the value of livers did not average above three cents a pound until 1941 when it finally climbed to five cents for the year and six cents during the last month of the year.[1/] At the average price the value of the potential yield would have been about $800,000. During the same year, the average value of groundfish was 3.8 cents per pound and the total value over $10,000,000. When fishing is moderate and there are few tear-ups, time is available to save livers without interfering with regular fishing operations, but in heavy fishing or on rough bottom the men are so occupied in putting down the catch and mending the nets that insufficient time remains for a thorough job of liver sorting. To slow up fishing operations when catching 5 to 10,000 pounds per set worth $200 - $400, in order to obtain an additional 200 - 300 pounds of liver worth $10 - $15, hardly is an economically sound proposition for either the crews or owners.

The heavy landings of scrod haddock have increased the importance of time as a limiting factor. Cleaning and icing 5,000 pounds of scrod takes much more time than handling the same poundage of large haddock.[2/] Furthermore, picking livers from scrod involves much more work for a given return than picking livers from large haddock. This fact is reflected in the records for December 1941. On trips including less than 20 percent of scrod, 12 landed more than 6 percent livers, 76 landed more than 3 percent, and only 11 less than 3 percent. The average was 4.64 percent. On trips including 30 percent or more of scrod, none landed more than 6 percent livers, only 5 landed more than 3 percent and 13 landed less than 3 percent. The average was 2.44 percent. Thus, an increase in the proportion of scrod from an average of about 8 percent to 40 percent reduced the saving of livers by nearly one-half.

A second limiting factor of major importance has been the difficulty in reaching an agreement between crew and owners over the share in the liver money. Until this issue can be settled and a formula worked out which is reasonably satisfactory to both parties, it is not likely that the maximum in liver landings can be achieved. Originally no livers were saved by any of the boats. Later, in some cases, one or more of the crew saved livers and shared the money received, or the owner of a large trawler placed a special liver man on board and the money received for livers was divided between the liver man and owner. When livers were saved by all hands the money in some cases went to the crew in some draggers and line trawlers, while in others it was split between crew and owner in the ratio of 2 to 1 or 3 to 1. In December 1940, the fishermen's union required that 12 men be carried on the large otter trawlers to provide 6 men on deck and watches of 6 hours on and 6 off. In such cases, no extra liver man was carried, but livers were saved by all fishermen. Since the

1/ Cod livers were quoted at nine cents per pound in the Service's Boston Fishery Market News report early in April when this article was going to press.

2/ Scrod weigh up to 2½ pounds, large haddock over 2½ pounds.

crew's share in the gross stock remained the same this meant that both the fishermen's work and the fishermen's share in the stock was divided with the two additional men. On these boats the liver money was included in the gross stock and divided between the owner and the crew in the same proportion as the remainder of the catch.

The third limiting factor applies particularly to line trawlers and draggers. At present livers are placed in barrels which are lashed on deck. Since such space is limited or needed for other purposes and such lashings are not completely dependable in winter storms, these boats limit or discontinue liver collecting, particularly during the winter months. This is illustrated by 1941 records which show that only 19 percent of the March and September line trawl trips saved livers, and the proportion saved averaged 1.8 percent, while 80 percent of the June and September trips saved livers and they averaged 4.5 percent. The medium otter trawlers showed a similar trend but not nearly to the same degree.

Condition of Livers as landed.--There appears to be some difference in opinion as to the proportion of livers now usable for medicinal purposes and the kind of preservation needed to make all livers usable. At present livers are stowed in barrels and lashed on deck. It is reported that under these conditions most of the oil can be used for medicinal purposes from October to March, but during the remaining months, April to September, decomposition of the livers makes most of the oil unsuitable for this purpose. If livers were properly cared for, for instance placed in cans and iced in the hold, they would be suitable for medicinal use throughout the year. The average value would be increased about two cents a pound.

Developments Required to Increase Production.--Further price increases will make livers of primary rather than secondary value. When the value has reached the level where it is profitable to slow down fishing operations if necessary to obtain the maximum quantity of livers, the landings will increase, particularly during times of heavy fishing.

Increase in the average size of the fish caught, by requiring the use of large meshed nets and market restrictions on small haddock, will reduce the amount of work required for cleaning and icing a given poundage of fish and, therefore, allow more time for picking livers. Furthermore, the amount of work involved in picking a gallon of livers will be reduced due to the larger individual size.

A settlement of the share differences to the satisfaction of the majority of the fishermen would increase the quantity of livers saved, particularly on the medium otter trawlers. If no other solution develops and it becomes essential to increase liver production by stimulation of greater efforts among the fishermen, they might be given an increased share in the quantity over a certain minimum percentage.

If the livers are considered as part of the gross stock, stored in containers and packed in ice in the hold, the limitations in respect to storage space would be overcome and the livers would be delivered to the buyers in a condition which will make a much higher proportion suitable for medicinal purposes. This will increase their value considerably.

0-0-0

FISHERIES OF NEW YORK STATE, 1941

By

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Junior Fishery Marketing Specialist*
Division of Fishery Industries

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

While the fisheries of New York State during 1941 will show a lower total production than for the previous year, the total value will be comparable to that for 1940. The changes in the availability of certain species, the decreased numbers of fishermen, the general increase in the cost of food products and labor, and the slight increase in the demand for fish have contributed to the higher value of the fishery products.

*Resigned March 15, 1942.

Since the 1941 fishery season showed such periodic trends it can best be described by discussion of particular species and localities.

Shad.--The 1941 and 1940 catch figures for the shad fishery are similar. Prices declined from the latter level principally because the average weight of the individual shad dropped to about two pounds, and because there was a decrease in the relative abundance of roe shad. In past years fishermen have concentrated on catching and marketing the roe shad. In 1940 the Hudson River shad fishery showed about three roe shad for two buck shad, but in 1941 the sexes were about equal in abundance. Buck shad seldom sell for more than 4 cents, whereas the roes may sell for as high as 12 cents per pound. Thus, it is obvious that a shad catch which is predominately roe shad will be more valuable than one composed equally of buck and roe shad.

Striped bass in Hudson River.--The 1941 catch in the striped bass fishery will be under that of 1940, but the total value may well be higher. This fishery is conducted by haul seines, although a few striped bass are taken in stake gill nets. Reports from the region around Haverstraw indicate a decrease in the catch of approximately 10 percent. Although market sizes were quite scarce, there appeared to be a tremendous amount of small three to four-inch bass. If this increase in the supply of immature striped bass in certain regions is indicative of a recent successful spawning season, it is reasonable to expect an influx of market-size striped bass in large numbers in about four years.

Alewives.--The catch in the alewife fishery during 1941 will equal that of 1940, and the value will be approximately the same. This fishery is not being prosecuted to the fullest extent. Alewives generally are so abundant that the resulting price of 1 cent per pound is little incentive to catch and market them. Some fishermen salt or pickle a few alewives for their own use; but the majority consider the alewife a trash fish and discard all they catch, occasionally saving a few for table use. Alewives are similar to shad in flavor and also, unfortunately, in the number of bones. It might be possible for the Hudson River fishermen to establish some type of cooperative preparation of salted or pickled alewives and also buck shad during periods of heavy supply.

Oysters, clams and conchs.--The numbers of men holding shellfish permits to work the the public grounds decreased from 2,292 in 1940 to 1,664 in 1941. However, the decrease was actually greater than the above figures indicate. In 1941 numerous license-holders did not fish at all, but went directly into defense activities.

The total production of shellfish will probably be less than in 1940, but the prices were so much higher that the total value may be greater. Hard clams sold at prices ranging from $2.50 to $3.50 a tub during 1941. Oysters did not increase greatly in price, but the total meat content of all shellfish was much higher per bushel than in 1940. The pounds of meat per bushel for the two years compare as follows:

	1941	1940
Oysters	8	7.5
Hard Clams	8.6	8.0
Surf Clams	13.0	12.0
Conchs	20.0	20.0

The Long Island Sound oyster does not have the quantity of meat that is found in the Gardiner's or Great South Bay oysters. It takes about five years for a Long Island Sound oyster to reach the size that a Great South Bay oyster will reach in three. The average weight of meat in pounds is less for the Long Island Sound oysters, but the factor of eight is an average of all regions.

Lobsters.--The numbers of licensed lobstermen shrank from 83 in 1940 to 73 in 1941. The principal areas for lobstering are Long Island Sound, Montauk, and the waters off Freeport and Baldwin in Nassau County. The Nassau County lobstermen have no license requirements since their gear is fished beyond the three-mile limit. They use a different type of pot which has been designed also to fish sea bass. In fact, probably the greater share of the sea bass catch of New York is taken in these Nassau County fish or lobster pots.

There will be an increase in the lobster catch for 1941, due entirely to the jump in the catches of the Montauk lobstermen and the Nassau County operators. About August, an

unusually heavy run of lobsters appeared on the ocean grounds off Montauk, the off-shore lobstermen averaging over $200 a week during the month of August. This influx of lobsters also extended along the entire southern shore of Long Island from Montauk to Fire Island Inlet. Otter trawlers fishing for fluke averaged about seven to ten "jumbo" lobsters per drag. These lobsters were generally females with eggs, ranging in size from four to ten pounds.

Bay scallops.--The 1941 production of bay scallops will also be better than the 1940 production. Transplanting of bud scallops to areas in the Peconic Bays appears to have been successful, and may result in even greater catches in later years.

Surf clams.--Surf clams, or "skimmers", were as abundant in 1941 as in past years, but the demand was less. These clams are used almost entirely for bait purposes, although they are used at times by the fishermen for clam chowder. There will be an even greater drop in production of surf clams for 1942, since many of the larger sport fishing boats, which utilized them for bait, have been taken over by the United States Navy.

Cod.--The important cod fishing areas of New York are at Montauk, Suffolk County, and at Freeport and Baldwin, Nassau County. This fishing is done by line trawl fished directly from the fishing boat. Cod catches have been at a low point for about seven years, and there was no evidence in 1941 of any increase. Montauk fishermen in the line trawl fishery have decreased from the former fleet of ten boats to only three in 1941. Even those three boats could not make any profitable catches. The Nassau County fleet seems to be set at about 10 to 12 boats, and is quite constant year after year. This fishery, moreover, seems to take enough cod to make that species quite important. Reports from Nassau County fishermen indicate that their 1941 catch will be comparable to 1940, but that the prices were much higher.

Sea Bass.--Sea bass are taken by hand liners out of Montauk, in fish pots in Nassau County, and by pound nets in Suffolk and Nassau Counties. The Nassau County catch was much better than in 1940, and the hand liners out of Montauk also reported sea bass more numerous than in past years. It is estimated that the 1941 catch of sea bass was 30 percent above the 1940 production.

Striped bass.--Striped bass were very scarce throughout the summer months in Long Island waters. In October the fall run of this species came into Montauk in far greater quantities than in the past three years. Hand liners trolling around the rocks off Montauk Point averaged catches during October and November that ranged from 10 to 50 fish. Haul seiners were unable to seine this fall group of striped bass efficiently. This fact, combined with a poor summer season, will bring about a lower striped bass catch than in 1940.

Weakfish (Sea trout).--Weakfish were much smaller in size than usual. Only in haul seine sets in deep water in the Peconic Bays, were the fishermen able to take large weakfish. Nassau County fishermen did not attempt to take any weakfish because of the small size of the individual fish and the correspondingly low price. Pound nets had fairly good fishing in April and May, but the mid-summer fishing was very poor. It appears that the individual sizes of weakfish become smaller each year. The total catch in numbers of fish may not have diminished materially, but the total poundage has definitely decreased.

Fluke.--Although an increase was not noticed in any other region of Long Island, Montauk had a very good fluke year, with catches 50 percent over those of recent years. The fishing fleets at Freeport, Nassau County, and at Sheepshead Bay, Kings County, reported a decrease in the 1941 catch, and that for New York also will probably be slightly under the 1940 figures.

Flounders.--Flounders have definitely increased in practically all regions, with the greatest gain in the Long Island Sound area north of Port Jefferson. Draggers in that section had to limit their drags to 30 minutes, and often four drags would constitute a day's work. These winter flounders were not as large as those of Peconic and Gardiner's Bays, however, and their average price was around five cents a pound. There was also an increased catch in Peconic and Gardiner's Bays, with production in October being the best for that month in the past ten years. These flounders sold for 8 to 12 cents a pound.

Eels.--In 1941 the season was much better than during 1940. Dressed eels sold for 18 cents and live eels sold for 12. Eel traps in Shinnecock, Moriches, and Great Peconic Bays had very good catches of both eels and winter flounders during the fall months.

The trapped eels are placed in "live cars" and held for the Christmas trade. Eel pots were operated from May to September and their catch is generally sold directly to consumers or to smokers. Eel dredges operate during the fall months. The latter catch is either shipped to Fulton Market or is sold to smokers who generally prefer eels caught either in pots or by spearing, since these are usually of a better size than the ones taken by traps or dredges.

Crabs.--The 1941 catch of crabs was at least 30 percent under the previous year. Nassau and Kings Counties supply most of the crabs, those in Nassau being taken by scap net, those in Kings by crab dredges. The season in Nassau County lasted only about one month--from August 15 to September 15. These crabs are generally held over until they shed in order that they may then be sold as soft crabs. The usual price for soft crabs in Nassau County is $1 a dozen, and the entire catch is sold locally. The crabs taken by crab dredge in Kings County are generally sold in Fulton Market.

Bluefish.--There were very few bluefish caught in 1941. Usually, those listed on the pound net records are not the large bluefish which sell for 15 to 30 cents per pound, but are the small "snappers" which seldom bring more than 10 cents. The haul seines and the drift gill nets do take a few large bluefish, but the 1941 catch was almost negligible.

Swordfish.--Although it was reported that approximately 230 swordfish were taken by commercial and sport fishing gear out of Montauk in 1940, very few were taken in 1941. It is doubted if more than 30 swordfish were landed at Montauk in 1941 by commercial fishermen.

Tuna.--The ocean traps off Jones Inlet and Fire Island Inlet reported a large increase in the tuna catch over the 1940 figures. Sportsmen also shipped to market many tuna from their recreational fishing, which is done almost entirely by the fleet sailing out of Freeport, Nassau County. The surplus catch is generally sent to Fulton Market. They also sell tuna livers to Long Island fish companies. The liver market has expanded greatly in the past two years.

Porgies (Scup).--Porgies were quite abundant in the early season, dropped off during the summer months, and came back fairly strong in the fall. The total catch may be slightly below 1940, but the value will probably be higher because of increased prices in the fall. Early prices were around 2 to 3 cents, but the fall quotations were up to 5 and 6 cents.

Butterfish.--There was a slight drop in the butterfish catch, and more small fish were mixed in the total catch than in the previous year. Small butterfish were so numerous that one pound net firm used a 3½ inch mesh sifter net to separate the small fish from the marketable sizes. The sifter was tied to the back of the net, stretched out, and the trap catch was pursed into the sifter. The fish were held there for about 15 minutes, giving the smaller fish a chance to escape unharmed through the large mesh.

Yellowtails.--The yellowtail fishery has expanded greatly in the past three years. The 1941 catch probably will exceed that for 1940, and the value will be much higher. Many vessels, which formerly went south during the winter, are now remaining in New York for the yellowtail fishing. Most of the catch is landed at Montauk and Greenport and shipped by truck into New York. Yellowtails have become particularly important in the fillet business and help fill an increasing demand for boneless fish.

The Fillet Industry of New York City.--There was little change in the fillet business of New York City during 1941 until the fall months, then it was so great that it affected the entire yearly statistics for the industry. In 1941 there was a decrease in the production of cod and haddock fillets, and an increase in the production of flounder fillets, the latter predominately from yellowtails. Prices also increased during 1941. Cod and haddock fillets went up from 10 to 15 cents a pound in 1940 to 16 to 23 cents, and flounder fillets increased from 10 to 14 cents to 18 to 20 cents. During December the prices of all fish were so high that three fillet houses ceased operating.

Canning and Byproducts.--There was an increased production of marine-shell buttons and novelties during 1941. However, this production will not be maintained during 1942, since the foreign supply of marine shells is now cut off. The production of turtle meat and soup increased slightly. Caviar production decreased as did the production of clam juice and chowder. The drop in the production of hard clam products was due mainly to the high prices for hard clams on the open market.

Possibilities for New Industries.--An attempt was made in 1941 to find some use for the surf clam or "skimmer", other than for bait purposes. Samples were sent to various canning firms, but the replies seemed to indicate an unfavorable reaction, especially toward their use in clam chowder. Surf clams are very gritty, making it difficult to produce a clean chowder with them. They are also slightly sweeter than the regular hard clams. There is a possibility, however, that surf clams could be used in the production of clam cocktails, and in clam broth if salt were added. The production of surf clams is almost unlimited and their use might relieve the strain on the hard clam population.

Another small industry might be developed in the preparation of mock crab meat from swellfish (blowfish). Certain fishermen on Long Island prepare swellfish for their own use by the following method: clean the fish as soon as possible after they are caught; soak the flesh, boneless except for the backbone, in a light salt brine for a day; then cook, allow to cool, and shred. The resulting flakes are very white, can easily be pressed into paste form, and are quite tasty in salads.

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LANDINGS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1941

By

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A total of 303,559,638* pounds of salt-water fish, valued at $11,682,145, was landed at the Boston Fish Pier and sold through the New England Fish Exchange during 1941. These totals represent an increase of 21 percent in volume and 35 percent in value as compared with 1940 when 250,945,429 pounds, valued at $8,654,112 were landed

No serious interruptions occurred during the year either on sea or shore to mar a perfect record in all phases of the fishery activities. The trend of production was steady in a flourishing market with, to some extent, increased production costs.

Fares were landed on 301 days during the year or an average of over one million pounds per day. Offshore vessels--practically all vessels over 50 gross tons--made 3,276 trips as compared with 3,159 trips in 1940, or an increase of 177. Inshore craft--mainly under 50 gross tons--made 3,295 trips or 789 less than in 1940, but landed approximately 4½ million pounds more fish. Heavy increases in both rosefish and whiting landings more than made up for the fewer fares.

Table I compares the total landings by offshore vessels and inshore craft. The larger type vessels operating mostly on offshore fishing grounds accounted for 88 percent of the total catch. Haddock continued to lead all species in volume with 51 percent for the large and scrod classifications combined. Next in importance was large, market and scrod cod with 24 percent. Mackerel and pollock each contributed 6 percent, followed by rosefish with 5 percent.

Whiting led the inshore landings with 34 percent followed by rosefish 29 percent; pollock 9 percent; flounders (all species) 9 percent, and cod and haddock (all grades) each 8 percent.

*Market News totals for Boston Fish Pier are slightly larger than those shown for Boston in the Service's Current Fishery Statistic's bulletins because landings of craft under 5 net tons are included.

TABLE 1 - LANDINGS BY OFFSHORE VESSELS AND INSHORE CRAFT AT BOSTON FISH PIER, 1941

Item	Offshore		Inshore		Total		
					Combined Offshore Inshore		
	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Percent	Percent
Blackbacks	935,915	*	255,096	1	1,191,011	79	21
Cod, large 1/	27,288,750	10	1,088,725	3	28,377,475	96	4
Cod, market 2/	37,159,950	14	1,711,282	5	38,871,242	96	4
Cusk	3,303,190	1	357,965	1	3,661,155	90	10
Dabs	1,962,695	1	832,978	2	2,795,673	70	30
Gray sole	1,370,665	1	1,055,419	3	2,426,084	56	44
Haddock	78,566,066	29	2,277,460	6	80,843,526	97	3
Haddock scrod	59,537,343	22	733,903	2	60,271,246	99	1
Hake	3,181,835	1	335,509	1	3,517,344	90	10
Halibut	686,173	*	8,237	*	694,410	99	1
Lemon sole	2,310,805	1	25,630	*	2,336,435	99	1
Mackerel 3/	15,943,361	6	11,065	*	15,954,426	100	*
Pollock	15,392,796	6	3,381,955	9	18,774,751	82	18
Rosefish (Redfish)	13,845,746	5	10,787,394	29	24,633,140	56	44
Swordfish	481,770	*	285	*	482,055	100	*
Whiting 4/	81,475	*	12,537,988	34	12,619,463	1	99
Wolffish (Catfish)	802,327	*	164,681	*	967,008	83	17
Yellowtails	2,085,663	1	1,109,330	3	3,194,993	65	35
Scallops, sea	1,526,042	1	390	*	1,526,432	100	*
Miscellaneous 5/	183,037	*	238,732	1	421,769	43	57
Total	266,645,614	100	36,914,024	100	303,559,638	88	12

* Less than one-half of one percent.

1/ Includes whale cod.

2/ Includes cod scrod.

3/ Includes landings by seiners, gill netters and trap boats.

4/ Includes dressed, round and steak whiting.

5/ Includes butterfish, shad, sharks, skates, spawn, etc.

Table II lists the comparative values for all species. Large and scrod haddock combined represent 54 percent of the total value of offshore vessels' landings. Other important species were cod (all grades) 22 percent; mackerel 5 percent; pollock 4 percent, and rosefish and sea scallops each 3 percent. Landings by inshore vessels show whiting first with 26 percent of the total value; followed by rosefish with 23 percent; haddock 14 percent; cod and flounders (including blackbacks, dabs, gray sole, lemon sole and yellowtails) each 12 percent; and pollock 9 percent.

Table III is a comparison between 1941 and 1940. In most instances volume, value, and average prices were greater in 1941. Only a few species showed major declines. Cusk fell off 44 percent in quantity and 30 percent in value; hake 19 percent and 16 percent; halibut 21 percent and 14 percent; and wolffish 21 percent and 14 percent, respectively. These species are mainly caught on trawl lines. There were fewer line trawlers in operation which largely accounts for these appreciable decreases. This type of fishery has been steadily on the wane for several years and many of the vessels have either passed out of the fishery or have been converted to draggers. The landings of hake by inshore boats has fallen from over 3 million pounds in 1938 to only approximately 300,000 pounds in 1941, a decrease of 90 percent.

Swordfish landings slumped 37 percent in quantity and 16 percent in value compared with 1940. Only 11 vessels engaged in swordfishing in 1941 and landed only 53 fares as compared with 82 fares for 1940. Higher prices in other fisheries dissuaded the vessels from changing over to the more speculative search for swordfish.

All prices were higher in 1941 with the sole exception of that for large cod which was only one percent less than during 1940. The weighted average price for all species increased 12 percent. Haddock scrod showed a remarkable increase of 70 percent in poundage and 95 percent in value. This phenomenal gain may be attributed to the large amount of round haddock scrod landed. Rosefish and whiting also made sensational increases of 80 and 157 percent respectively, in total values.

TABLE II - VALUES OF LANDINGS BY OFFSHORE VESSELS AND INSHORE CRAFT AT BOSTON FISH PIER, 1941

Item	Offshore		Inshore		Total		
					Combined	Offshore	Inshore
	Value	Percent	Value	Percent	Value	Percent	Percent
Blackbacks	$35,055.88	*	$15,175.03	1	$50,230.91	70	30
Cod, large 1/	1,049,747.57	10	52,115.56	5	1,101,863.13	95	5
Cod, market 2/	1,249,777.54	12	75,347.61	7	1,325,125.15	94	6
Cusk	113,868.08	1	11,769.31	1	125,637.39	91	9
Dabs	65,481.97	1	27,324.73	2	92,806.70	71	29
Gray sole	69,211.85	1	61,898.66	6	131,110.51	53	47
Haddock	3,488,957.96	33	125,771.81	11	3,614,729.77	97	3
Haddock scrod	2,231,322.56	21	28,356.70	3	2,259,679.26	99	1
Hake	142,368.76	1	15,672.30	1	158,041.06	90	10
Halibut	110,590.37	1	1,770.77	*	112,361.14	98	2
Lemon sole	169,926.38	2	2,661.13	*	172,587.51	98	2
Mackerel 3/	486,359.45	5	217.68	*	486,577.13	100	*
Pollock	466,814.60	4	101,422.45	9	568,237.05	82	18
Rosefish (Redfish)	318,095.62	3	251,111.07	23	569,206.69	56	44
Swordfish	139,036.48	1	94.05	*	139,130.53	100	*
Whiting 4/	1,158.33	*	288,616.41	26	289,774.74	*	100
Wolffish	32,992.36	*	7,171.26	1	40,163.62	82	18
Yellowtails	54,614.01	1	30,710.95	3	85,324.96	64	36
Scallops, sea	330,166.43	3	96.12	*	330,262.55	100	*
Miscellaneous 5/	13,478.93	*	15,815.91	1	29,294.84	46	54
Total	10,569,025.13	100	1,113,119.51	100	11,682,144.64	90	10

NOTE - See Table I for explanation of footnotes.

TABLE III - COMBINED LANDINGS AT BOSTON FISH PIER, 1941 AND 1940

Item	Volume			Value			Average prices		
	1941	1941 Compared with 1940	1940	1941	1941 Compared with 1940	1940	1941	1941 Compared with 1940	1940
	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Value	Percent	Value	$	Percent	$
Blackbacks	1,191,011	- 4	1,236,589	$50,230.91	- 1	$50,773.49	4.22	+ 3	4.11
Cod, large 1/	28,377,475	+21	23,381,252	1,101,863.13	+ 21	911,862.23	3.88	- 1	3.90
Cod, market 2/	38,871,242	+34	28,934,550	1,325,125.15	+ 40	947,041.85	3.41	+ 4	3.27
Cusk	3,661,155	-19	5,164,855	125,637.39	- 16	149,212.00	3.43	+19	2.89
Dabs	2,795,673	+19	2,347,162	92,806.70	+ 43	64,727.00	3.32	+20	2.76
Gray sole	2,426,084	-44	4,357,540	131,110.51	- 30	187,546.48	5.40	+26	4.30
Haddock	80,843,526	+10	73,801,122	3,614,729.77	+ 20	3,023,350.45	4.47	+ 9	4.10
Haddock scrod	60,271,246	+70	35,550,637	2,259,679.26	+ 95	1,157,647.90	3.75	+15	3.26
Hake	3,517,344	-24	4,604,911	158,041.06	- 6	168,779.96	4.49	+22	3.67
Halibut	694,410	-21	873,696	112,361.14	- 14	130,819.42	16.18	+ 8	14.97
Lemon sole	2,336,435	+13	2,067,426	172,587.51	+ 17	147,643.83	7.39	+ 4	7.14
Mackerel 3/	15,954,426	+ 6	15,066,074	486,577.13	+ 43	341,431.39	3.05	+34	2.27
Pollock	18,774,751	- 3	19,292,958	568,237.05	+ 27	448,271.80	3.03	+31	2.32
Rosefish (Redfish)	24,633,140	+31	18,751,654	569,206.69	+ 80	316,564.67	2.31	+37	1.69
Swordfish	482,055	-37	762,270	139,130.53	- 16	165,445.79	28.86	+33	21.70
Whiting 4/	12,619,463	+57	8,013,817	289,774.74	+157	112,866.07	2.30	+63	1.41
Wolffish (Catfish)	967,008	+24	781,516	40,163.62	+ 36	29,628.83	4.15	+ 9	3.79
Yellowtails	3,194,993	-25	4,263,574	85,324.96	- 8	92,833.61	2.67	+ 22	2.18
Scallops, sea	1,526,432	+34	1,140,565	330,262.55	+ 77	186,107.52	21.64	+33	16.32
Miscellaneous 5/	421,769	-24	553,261	29,294.84	+ 36	21,557.34	6.95	+78	3.90
Total	303,559,638	+21	250,945,429	11,682,144.64	+ 35	8,654,111.63	3.85	+12	3.45

NOTE - See Table I for explanation of footnotes.

Table IV presents a monthly index of combined landings of the more important species by offshore vessels and inshore craft. June led all other months with a total of 30,328,142 pounds landed.

TABLE IV - MONTHLY INDEX OF COMBINED OFFSHORE AND INSHORE LANDINGS AT BOSTON FISH PIER, 1941
(Expressed for each classification in percentages of its greatest monthly volume)

Item	Year	Greatest month	Average month	Percentage of largest month's landings												
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds													
Blackbacks	1,191,011	156,870	99,251	49	24	14	28	100	88	60	96	73	78	75	75	63
Cod, large 1/	28,377,475	5,712,793	2,364,790	31	74	100	85	47	29	21	14	22	22	25	28	41
Cod, market 2/	38,871,242	5,498,022	3,239,927	25	35	54	85	90	97	55	33	35	59	100	40	59
Cusk	3,661,155	497,230	305,096	60	71	68	34	57	23	50	93	77	50	100	53	61
Dabs	2,795,673	452,425	232,973	32	32	26	37	60	100	70	54	51	53	36	68	45
Gray sole	2,426,084	553,360	202,174	100	40	46	49	36	22	13	19	17	27	27	41	37
Haddock	80,843,526	9,361,615	6,736,960	52	71	89	100	99	97	83	64	65	56	38	51	72
Haddock scrod	60,271,246	8,427,609	5,022,604	37	52	57	52	51	68	77	93	100	59	34	34	60
Hake	3,517,344	689,855	293,112	30	15	9	6	29	19	81	75	100	58	55	33	42
Halibut	694,410	119,939	57,868	20	72	58	100	68	38	91	38	39	23	20	12	48
Lemon sole	2,336,435	517,975	194,703	18	10	11	29	98	100	42	38	47	25	15	17	38
Mackerel 3/	15,954,426	4,813,970	1,994,303	-	-	-	-	47	39	42	37	48	100	13	5	41
Pollock	18,774,751	5,022,490	1,564,563	30	33	24	27	16	8	7	6	12	18	93	100	31
Rosefish (Redfish)	24,633,140	2,452,025	2,052,762	77	97	95	95	99	77	68	60	96	100	66	75	84
Swordfish	482,055	227,238	160,685	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	100	51	-	-	-	71
Whiting 4/	12,619,463	2,945,763	1,577,433	-	-	-	-	14	80	100	100	72	50	12	1	54
Wolffish (Catfish)	967,008	259,495	80,584	18	27	38	82	100	25	20	17	9	9	14	14	31
Yellowtails	3,194,993	470,325	266,249	86	36	21	58	73	56	42	35	72	42	59	100	57
Scallops, sea	1,526,432	222,104	127,203	3	4	19	96	77	67	86	100	45	83	95	9	57
Miscellaneous 5/	421,769	117,788	35,147	19	27	26	16	5	6	13	39	100	51	38	18	30
Totals: 1941	303,559,638	30,328,142	25,296,636	54	74	87	94	97	100	91	84	91	86	74	67	83
1940	250,945,429	28,387,994	20,912,119	74	77	65	47	51	59	100	94	82	84	78	75	74
1939	274,983,112	27,760,726	22,915,259	63	78	94	88	100	76	83	93	84	77	76	79	83
1938	300,041,527	29,904,139	25,003,461	76	75	99	94	100	93	77	94	74	74	74	72	84

NOTE - See Table I for explanation of footnotes.

Table V offers a monthly index of combined weighted average prices of the more important species landed by offshore vessels and inshore craft. The weighted average price was lowest in May during 1941.

TABLE V - MONTHLY INDEX OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES OF COMBINED OFFSHORE AND INSHORE LANDINGS AT BOSTON FISH PIER, 1941
(Expressed for each classification in percentages of its highest monthly price)

Item	Year	Highest month	Lowest month	Percentage of highest month's price												
				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg
	$	$	$													
Blackbacks	4.22	7.99	1.79	69	95	100	53	22	37	54	52	41	63	61	72	53
Cod, large 1/	3.88	6.22	2.38	87	58	54	38	42	61	75	89	89	100	84	95	62
Cod, market 2/	3.41	4.95	2.24	100	84	73	48	45	51	61	75	84	91	82	97	69
Cusk	3.43	4.47	2.03	97	70	80	56	45	63	69	68	81	94	83	100	77
Dabs	3.32	4.57	2.14	77	72	86	60	47	63	65	67	71	94	88	100	73
Gray sole	5.40	6.75	4.38	65	82	83	68	74	91	89	88	98	100	87	94	80
Haddock	4.47	6.57	3.33	84	72	67	51	51	54	62	69	74	87	96	100	68
Haddock scrod	3.75	5.45	2.94	74	65	63	54	56	55	64	70	72	84	91	100	69
Hake	4.49	7.29	2.82	88	100	87	59	39	50	48	51	54	75	69	83	62
Halibut	16.18	23.20	12.15	90	73	77	56	52	61	69	67	84	97	100	95	70
Lemon sole	7.39	13.40	3.22	89	100	96	57	24	37	70	70	57	84	90	98	55
Mackerel 3/	3.05	6.65	2.11	-	-	-	-	32	51	60	58	32	38	100	79	46
Pollock	3.03	3.87	2.13	84	69	82	57	55	71	89	93	90	100	72	87	78
Rosefish (Redfish)	2.31	2.93	1.78	90	99	100	73	62	61	64	73	76	78	73	91	79
Swordfish	28.86	43.64	26.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	60	74	100	-	-	66
Whiting 4/	2.30	6.04	1.90	100	67	83	89	49	31	34	37	41	46	53	78	38
Wolffish (Catfish)	4.15	6.73	3.15	72	72	78	52	47	53	64	73	89	100	83	88	62
Yellowtails	2.67	3.41	2.08	62	84	100	68	61	74	96	84	64	89	86	97	78
Scallops, sea	21.64	31.04	15.42	64	64	79	57	50	55	62	68	77	89	95	100	70
Miscellaneous	6.95	10.03	5.18	100	98	90	72	52	56	52	64	66	68	52	54	69
Totals: 1941	3.85	4.93	2.84	92	80	77	60	58	63	77	84	82	89	92	100	78
1940	3.45	4.36	2.51	82	83	100	97	81	71	57	69	81	83	75	86	79
1939	2.79	3.34	2.05	95	88	95	71	61	79	72	81	86	100	95	87	84
1938	2.44	2.96	1.78	100	99	90	66	60	68	79	78	94	91	81	100	82

NOTE - See Table I for explanation of footnotes.

All prices are weighted averages in dollars per hundredweight for fares sold over the New England Fish Exchange.

NEW ENGLAND'S ALEWIFE FISHERY AS A POTENTIAL FOOD RESOURCE

By
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During the present war, food will become of increasing importance as the supply of available labor and equipment necessary for its production diminishes. The alewife or river herring--one of the almost forgotten fishery resources of New England--gives promise of adding to our food supplies. The fishery requires practically no gear and very little labor. Usually these fish can be caught merely by dipping them out of traps in streams or brooks.

Unfortunately, the alewife fisheries have been badly neglected. Because the runs are concentrated during a couple of months in the spring in each locality, there has been little attempt to develop any but local markets for fresh alewives. The majority of alewives are salted in the round and later smoked as the market requires. Many people still buy these smoked alewives as a delicacy, but the consumption has been less than even the limited supply.

The New England catch of alewives at the beginning of the century was over 10,000,000 pounds a year, but has gradually fallen to about 4,000,000 pounds. With full utilization of the present supply this take doubtless can be increased somewhat. At one time, alewives were abundant throughout New England but the runs have been reduced greatly or exterminated, sometimes wantonly, in many of the streams. If the potential alewife streams and ponds were producing at anything like capacity, they would undoubtedly furnish many millions of pounds of valuable protein, useful as food.

It has been demonstrated that alewives can be restored easily to ponds and streams within a comparatively short time. Small runs of alewives spawning above dams without fishways have been maintained merely by releasing a few barrels of alewives above the dam each year. Stocking of barren ponds has brought returning runs in 3 to 4 years.

The duration of the war is at present unpredictable. The longer it lasts, the more pressing will be the demand for food. It would be wise to prepare now for possible food shortages in the future. Therefore, it is recommended that steps be taken by the New England States to restore alewives to all ponds and streams where their maintenance is practical. Restoration in many places merely requires stocking to restore an exterminated run. In a few localities it requires the removal of screens placed at the mouth of ponds with the vain hope of aiding fishing for trout or other game fish by preventing their escape. Sometimes it will require the building of one or more fishways over dams.

Should the war be prolonged, the runs of alewives will be needed. If the emergency is short, the restoration of these runs will still benefit these ponds and streams by providing quantities of food for gamefish. Where else can so much food be obtained at so small a cost?

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

The activities of the Fish and Wildlife Service are described in considerable detail in the Annual Report of the Director to the Secretary of the Interior. Those interested in the work of the Service are referred to the most recent reports which are: Annual Report of the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, 1941; Annual Report of the Chief, Bureau of Biological Survey, 1940; and Annual Report of the Acting Commissioner of Fisheries, 1940. The latter two are the last separate reports issued on the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries before they were combined as the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Inquiries should be directed to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.

FISH OILS USED MAINLY FOR SOAPS, PAINTS, AND VARNISHES IN 1941

Of the 5,860,742,000 pounds of animal and vegetable fats and oils consumed in factories in 1941, over three-fifths was used in the production of soap and shortening, according to Bureau of Census data. Fish oils amounted to 187,031,000 pounds and were utilized as follows:

	Pounds		Pounds
Shortening	6,165,000	Linoleum and oilcloth	14,682,000
Soap	69,423,000	Printing inks	179,000
Paint and varnish	40,653,000	Miscellaneous products	55,640,000

Loss, (including oil in foots) 289,000 pounds

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES

During the last week of March, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' comprehensive index of prices of nearly 900 wholesale price series again rose slightly, by 0.2 percent, to 97.4 percent of the 1926 level--the highest since the autumn of 1928. Commodities in the primary markets were 0.6 percent above the corresponding week of February of this year, and nearly 19 percent above 1941 for the last week in March. Average prices for foods have risen 25 percent in the past year.

In 51 cities the average retail price of a 1-pound tall can of pink salmon in mid-February was 20.8 cents--30 cents above the comparable date last year, and 2½ percent above mid-January. The average retail price for red salmon was 38.4 cents per 1-pound tall can, 43.8 percent more than in mid-February 1941, and a 2.4 percent gain over last month.

NEW ENGLAND LANDINGS DOWN 45 PERCENT IN FIRST 2 MONTHS OF 1942

The dispute over war risk insurance which tied up a large portion of Boston's otter trawlers during much of January and February is reflected in the 45 percent decline in the combined landings at Boston, Gloucester, and Portland for the first two months of the year as compared with the same period in 1941. With the exception of landings of rosefish--which were down only about 15 percent, and supplanted haddock as the most important species in February--the volume of the principal varieties dropped precipitately. The weighted average price for all landings was up 57 percent, with cod, haddock, pollock and most flounders making spectacular gains.

Landings by Fishing Vessels at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Me.

Species	February 1942		January 1942		February 1941		Two months ending with-- February 1942		February 1941	
	Pounds	Cents*	Pounds	Cents*	Pounds	Cents*	Pounds	Cents*	Pounds	Cents*
Cod	1,837,822	8.27	1,568,900	8.33	6,153,260	3.73	3,406,722	8.30	9,467,320	4.23
Haddock	3,957,699	8.69	5,580,793	7.33	11,433,531	4.27	9,538,492	7.89	19,605,956	4.54
Hake	86,235	8.59	162,795	6.90	131,361	6.73	249,030	7.48	414,651	6.12
Pollock	265,505	8.86	1,441,995	5.41	1,709,031	2.67	1,707,500	5.95	3,370,678	2.94
Cusk	141,890	7.19	145,357	6.79	399,202	3.26	287,247	6.99	749,814	3.78
Halibut	7,902	28.31	5,548	26.44	87,169	16.78	13,450	27.54	111,627	17.65
Mackerel	-	-	980	7.76	-	-	980	7.76	2,185	11.95
Flounders:										
Gray sole	246,035	8.45	164,730	8.66	377,578	5.24	410,765	8.53	1,047,476	4.69
Lemon sole	24,165	16.23	39,475	15.83	55,772	12.65	63,640	15.98	157,183	11.78
Yellowtail	130,655	7.47	504,885	5.01	413,470	2.02	635,540	5.52	968,615	1.93
Blackback	43,800	8.47	119,215	5.97	34,045	7.15	163,015	6.64	134,640	5.94
Dab	131,125	6.62	149,390	5.15	255,935	2.73	280,515	5.84	463,220	2.88
Other	1,000	13.60	-	-	4,860	3.00	1,000	13.60	4,860	3.00
Rosefish	4,658,487	3.79	5,418,529	3.16	6,568,252	2.68	10,077,016	3.45	11,852,735	2.56
Whiting	1,808	6.69	55,927	3.69	2,325	4.00	57,735	3.79	4,435	5.23
Wolffish	15,295	8.39	15,925	7.80	65,175	4.69	31,220	8.09	111,450	4.74
Scallops (meats)	3,917	37.99	6,691	37.00	9,160	20.10	10,608	37.37	15,976	20.06
Other	5,775	-	9,598	-	6,662	-	15,373	-	7,957	-
Total	11,559,115	6.63	15,390,733	5.71	27,706,788	3.70	26,949,848	6.10	48,490,778	3.89

* Weighted average of prices per pound paid to fishermen.

FISHERIES OF MASSACHUSETTS

Rosefish (redfish) vessels fishing out of Gloucester will receive a minimum of $2.25 per hundred pounds for their fares, according to an early April report of the Service's agent in that port. Vessels will lay over 4 days between trips, but no catch limitations have yet been imposed.

This year's southern mackerel seining fleet numbers about 6 vessels. Two or three of these will not cease dragging until the first mackerel are reported.

FISHERIES OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY STATES DURING 1940

The commercial catch of fishery products in Maryland and Virginia in 1940 amounted to 320,736,000 pounds, valued at $7,456,000, constituting a slight decrease as compared to the 1939 catch of 323,653,000 pounds, valued at $7,197,000, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics report No. 19. Based on the value to the fishermen, market oysters, as in previous years, were the most important product, the catch amounting to 37,457,000 pounds of meats, valued at $3,217,000, an increase of 2 percent in volume and 18 percent in value as compared to the catch in 1939. Other important products, following in respective order according to value were: Crabs, 41,816,000 pounds, valued at $1,148,000; croakers, 41,724,000 pounds, valued at $615,000; menhaden, 143,227,000 pounds, valued at $549,000; and shad, 3,256,000 pounds, valued at $356,000.

The catch in Virginia, which included nearly the entire production of menhaden taken in the Chesapeake Bay area, amounted to 269,651,000 pounds, valued at $4,858,000, while the catch in Maryland was shown as 51,085,000 pounds, valued at $2,598,000. The fisheries in the Bay Region gave employment to 14,269 fishermen, 1,023 persons engaged in the transporting trade, and 12,331 persons engaged in wholesale and manufacturing establishments during 1940. The production of manufactured fishery products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) amounted to $10,944,000 as compared to $10,698,000 in 1939.

One new development in the Virginia fishery was the extensive growth of the sea mussel fishery. During 1940, the production of this item amounted to 2,213,000 pounds (309,000 bushels) valued at $88,500. Although the mollusk is not used directly for food purposes, it is being utilized because of its value as a source of Vitamin D_3 in poultry feed.

FISHERIES OF THE LAKE STATES DURING 1940

The yield of the commercial fisheries of the Lake States, including the International Lakes of northern Minnesota, during 1940 amounted to 79,296,000 pounds, valued at $5,623,000 to the fishermen, as compared with a catch of 85,235,000 pounds, valued at $6,762,000 during 1939, according to the Service's Current Fishery Statistics report No. 13. Rated according to value to the fishermen, lake trout ranked ahead of all other species, the catch totaling 9,859,000 pounds, valued at $1,608,000. Other important species, following in order, were: Common whitefish, 4,618,000 pounds, valued at $735,000; yellow pike, 6,067,000 pounds, valued at $731,000; lake herring, 22,480,000 pounds, valued at $486,000; and blue pike, 5,073,000 pounds, valued at $404,000. Michigan led the other Great Lakes States in the poundage of fishery products produced, with a catch of 26,231,000 pounds, valued at $2,022,000; and Ohio ranked second, with 18,996,000 pounds, valued at $1,349,000.

There were 8,205 persons employed in the Great Lakes fisheries during 1940, consisting of 5,142 fishermen, 3,030 persons in the wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 33 persons on transporting craft. Manufactured fishery products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) were valued at $4,392,000.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE RECEIPTS DOWN SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY

A total of 5,476,000 pounds of fishery products was received by the Chicago Wholesale Market in February, a decrease of 5 percent as compared with the previous month and 7 percent as compared with the same period a year ago, according to the Service's Chicago Fishery Market News office.

In spite of the decline in total receipts, some varieties showed appreciable increases over January. Smelt gained 209 percent, attributed largely to fishing through the ice in the Green Bay area of Wisconsin and Michigan. Lake trout, whitefish and halibut receipts also were greater.

Receipts of Fishery Products at Chicago

Item	Feb. 1942	Feb. 1942 compared with Jan. 1942	Feb. 1942 compared with Feb. 1941	2 Months Jan. - Feb. 1942	2 mo. 1942 compared with 2 mo. 1941
Classification:	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Percent
Fresh-water fish	2,963,000	0	- 20	5,936,000	- 16
Salt-water fish	1,918,000	- 1	+ 27	3,849,000	+ 47
Shellfish, etc.	595,000	- 32	- 11	1,473,000	- 12
Total receipts	5,476,000	- 5	+ 7	11,258,000	- 1
Leading items*:					
Lake trout	370,000	+ 34	+ 23	646,000	- 9
Sauger	640,000	- 40	- 47	1,710,000	- 17
Smelt	287,000	+209	+ 11	420,000	+ 14
Whitefish	446,000	+ 44	- 21	655,000	- 33
Halibut	989,000	+ 40	+ 16	1,697,000	+ 32
Rosefish fillets	207,000	- 33	+ 4	518,000	+ 22
Shrimp	300,000	- 34	- 25	757,000	- 26
Leading sources:					
Massachusetts	587,000	- 18	+ 40	1,304,000	+ 45
Michigan	439,000	+ 90	+ 84	670,000	- 1
Minnesota	320,000	+ 4	+ 50	628,000	+ 17
British Columbia	1,008,000	+ 71	+ 77	1,597,000	+ 60
Manitoba	1,030,000	- 32	- 42	2,553,000	- 18
Domestic total	3,141,000	- 2	+ 5	6,353,000	+ 2
Imported total	2,335,000	- 9	- 19	4,905,000	- 4
Transported by:					
Truck	1,787,000	- 2	- 1	3,614,000	- 3
Express	688,000	- 5	- 7	1,413,000	- 8
Freight	3,001,000	- 7	- 10	6,231,000	+ 2

* Fresh and frozen fish combined.

FISHERIES OF WASHINGTON

Under the 1942 Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, the halibut fishing season opens April 15 instead of April 1 as in 1941, according to the Service's Seattle Market News office. The catch limit for Area 3--Western Banks--has been increased ½ million pounds from 26,300,000 to 26,800,000 pounds. The Area 2--Local Banks--quota of 22,700,000 pounds is the same as for the 1941 season. The total of 49,500,000 pounds is based on the weight of drawn halibut with heads off.

Paragraph (h) has been added to Section 4, stating "The license of any vessel shall not be valid for the possession of any halibut in any area other than that for which validated if such vessel is in possession of baited gear, except in those waters included within a 25-mile radius of Cape Spencer Light, Alaska". In view of the extensive use of bottom gill nets in the soupfin shark fishery, regulations now prohibit the possession of halibut by a vessel during the use or possession of such set nets on board the vessel.

Fishermen control the rate of catch by a voluntary curtailment system which limits the maximum catch per trip and the number of days layover between trips. It appears that the proposed curtailment program for 1942 will increase the catch per trip 4,000 pounds for Area 3 for Western vessels, and 2,000 pounds for Area 2 for Local vessels. The layover between trips probably will be 8 days instead of 10 days as during 1941. It also is probable that the 15-day layover required after the first trip will be cut to 8 days. The changes in the curtailment system make possible a considerably accelerated rate of catch.

The outlook for halibut fishing operations appears normal, with all of the halibut craft participating in the soupfin shark fishery preparing to enter the halibut fishery with the opening of the season. Indications point to materially higher prices for fresh halibut since there has been a considerable advance in scrap fish and otter trawl fish prices as compared with a year ago.

PRIVILEGES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA PORTS EXTENDED TO AMERICAN VESSELS

An Order in Council dated March 12, 1942, authorized the Canadian Minister of Fisheries to grant licenses to United States fishing vessels on the Pacific Coast engaging in fishing for lingcod, grayfish and sharks during the calendar year 1942. The fee for each license is $1.00. The license covers privileges similar to those now enjoyed by United States halibut fishing vessels on the British Columbia Coast. These privileges are:

1. To purchase bait, ice, nets, lines, coal, oil, provisions, and all other supplies and outfits.
2. To ship crews.
3. To land their catches without the payment of duties, and
   (a) Trans-ship them in bond to any port in the United States;
   (b) Sell them in bond to such local dealer or dealers as may be properly authorized therefor by the Minister of National Revenue, which dealer shall export the same in compliance with the bonding requirements;
   (c) Sell them for use in Canada on payment of duty.

FROZEN FISH TRADE

March 15 Holdings of Frozen Fishery Products about One-half Record in Mid-December

In the 3 months from mid-December to mid-March, the record holdings of frozen fishery products on the former date dropped almost one-half from a total of nearly 118 million pounds to 62 million pounds, according to data collected by the Agricultural Marketing Administration from cold-storage plants in United States and Alaska. Holdings were a third greater than the 5-year average for March 15, pollock fillets and whiting being the only principal items showing important decreases.

Holdings of Fishery Products in the United States

Item	March 15 1942	March 15 compared with Feb. 15 1942	March 15 1941	5-yr.av. March 15	Feb. 15 1942	March 15 1941	5 yr. av. March 15
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Frozen fish and shellfish:							
Total holdings	62,005,000	- 25	+ 24	+ 33	82,677,000	49,805,000	46,623,000
Important items:							
Cod fillets	1,215,000	- 26	- 9	+ 2	1,634,000	1,340,000	1,189,000
Haddock fillets	3,384,000	- 28	+ 25	+ 28	4,690,000	2,701,000	2,642,000
Pollock fillets	1,594,000	- 40	- 51	- 44	2,677,000	3,231,000	2,863,000
Rosefish fillets	3,085,000	+ 21	+459	+ 78	2,541,000	552,000	1,731,000
Halibut	5,212,000	- 29	+ 47	+137	7,319,000	3,547,000	2,197,000
Herring, sea	782,000	- 12	- 33	- 35	888,000	1,163,000	1,213,000
Mackerel	1,976,000	- 51	- 12	- 5	4,006,000	2,251,000	2,086,000
Mullet	750,000	- 50	+264	*	1,489,000	206,000	*
Sablefish	1,272,000	- 11	- 15	+ 11	1,426,000	1,503,000	1,143,000
Salmon	5,361,000	- 27	+ 21	+ 26	7,341,000	4,439,000	4,246,000
Smelt	2,170,000	+ 19	0	+ 49	1,818,000	2,161,000	1,461,000
Whiting	2,837,000	- 42	- 11	- 41	4,886,000	3,199,000	4,831,000
Blue pike & sauger	1,378,000	+ 26	- 25	+ 40	1,092,000	1,835,000	981,000
Lake herring	1,731,000	- 25	+ 53	+ 54	2,298,000	1,135,000	1,122,000
Lake trout	744,000	- 24	+ 29	+ 53	984,000	578,000	486,000
Whitefish	1,465,000	- 8	- 23	- 13	1,588,000	1,894,000	1,688,000
Shrimp	6,859,000	- 19	+116	*	8,498,000	3,182,000	*
Cured fish:							
Herring, cured	12,212,000	- 11	- 10	- 16	13,783,000	13,542,000	14,622,000
Salmon, mild-cured	4,589,000	- 10	+ 65	+ 10	5,116,000	2,775,000	4,182,000

* Data not available.

Rosefish Fillets Make Up 29 percent of Freezings During Month Ending March 15

Increased freezings of some of the more important fishery items in the month prior to mid-March resulted in a 10 percent gain over the low point reached in mid-February and a volume 38 percent larger than the 5-year average for the same period, according to data collected from United States and Alaska cold-storage plants by the Agricultural Marketing Administration.. Frozen rosefish fillets accounted for 29 percent of the production.

Freezings of Fishery Products in United States Cold-storage Plants
(Figures are for the month ending on the date indicated)

Item	March 15 1942	March 15 compared with			Feb. 15 1942	March 15 1941	5-yr. av. March 15
		Feb. 15 1942	March 15 1941	5-yr.av. March 15			
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Total fish and shellfish	7,186,000	+ 10	+ 23	+ 38	6,559,000	5,838,000	5,207,000
Important items:							
Cod fillets	288,000	+380	+ 206	+ 52	60,000	94,000	189,000
Haddock fillets	759,000	+352	- 37	- 27	168,000	1,207,000	1,039,000
Rosefish fillets	2,080,000	+ 90	+ 35	+147	1,092,000	1,543,000	842,000
Mackerel	182,000	+ 3	+2175	+487	177,000	8,000	31,000
Sablefish	308,000	+ 88	+ 616	+191	164,000	43,000	106,000
Salmon	180,000	- 11	- 9	+ 15	202,000	197,000	157,000
Smelt	347,000	+952	+ 357	+157	33,000	76,000	135,000
Lake herring	122,000	- 22	+1425	+281	156,000	8,000	32,000
Pickerel (jacks)	182,000	- 25	+ 72	+279	244,000	106,000	48,000
Whitefish	146,000	- 18	- 40	- 17	177,000	245,000	176,000
Shrimp	460,000	- 56	+ 56	*	1,036,000	295,000	*

* Data not available.

Cold-storage Stocks in Boston Decline 16 percent in March

Boston cold-storage warehouse holdings of fishery products, like others throughout the country, showed a marked decline on March 25, according to the Service's local Market News office. Decreases in stocks of pollock and rosefish fillets, mackerel and shrimp were largely responsible for the decline. Haddock holdings increased sharply while those of smelt continued to gain.

Frozen whiting held in 15 warehouses in Maine and Massachusetts totaled 1,409,000 pounds on March 21, approximately 743,000 pounds less than on February 21. Dressed, H & G, fillets and skuljoes declined about 573,000 pounds to holdings of 426,000 pounds while the total for round whiting dropped 170,000 pounds to 941,000 pounds. Whiting stocks of 42,000 pounds for animal food were unchanged.

Boston Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Mar. 25, 1942	Mar. 25 compared with		Feb. 25, 1942	Mar. 26, 1941
		Feb. 25, 1942	Mar. 26, 1941		
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Total fish and shellfish	6,516,000	- 16	- 3	7,787,000	6,743,000
Leading items:					
Fillets:					
Haddock	1,041,000	+138	+ 15	438,000	904,000
Pollock	595,000	- 45	- 58	1,083,000	1,425,000
Rosefish	527,000	- 13	+750	606,000	62,000
Mackerel	613,000	- 57	- 22	1,434,000	786,000
Smelt	1,167,000	+ 15	+ 7	1,011,000	1,092,000
Shrimp	458,000	- 21	+309	581,000	112,000

New York Cold-storage Holdings Continue to Decline

The seasonal drop in cold-storage holdings in New York continued through March 26, according to the Service's New York Fishery Market News office, with total holdings decreasing 18 percent during the month to 7,125,000 pounds.

New York Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Mar. 26, 1942	Mar. 26 compared with Feb. 26, 1942	Mar. 26 compared with Mar. 27, 1941	Feb. 26, 1942	Mar. 27, 1941
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Total fish and shellfish	7,125,000	- 18	+ 26	8,685,000	5,673,000
Leading items:					
Butterfish	435,000	- 14	+ 97	506,000	221,000
Halibut	622,000	- 32	+277	916,000	165,000
Salmon, king (chinook)	486,000	- 2	+ 10	498,000	441,000
Whitefish	656,000	+ 16	- 36	566,000	1,030,000
Lobster tails, scuny	347,000	- 47	+ 23	658,000	282,000

Some Varieties Show Gains in Chicago Cold-storage Holdings at End of March

Frozen fishery products held in cold-storage warehouses in Chicago at the end of March amounted to 6,571,000 pounds, according to the Service's Chicago Market News office. This represents a decline of 1,400,000 pounds or 18 percent when compared with the holdings on February 26.

A few varieties, however, showed appreciable increases, namely; blue pike and sauger and whitefish. This was due largely to greater receipts on the local market of frozen or winter-caught fish from the northern lakes' region.

Chicago Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Mar. 26, 1942	Mar. 26 compared with Feb. 26, 1942	Mar. 26 compared with Mar. 27, 1941	Feb. 26, 1942	Mar. 27, 1941
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Total fish and shellfish	6,571,000	- 18	+ 13	7,971,000	5,807,000
Leading items:					
Blue pike and sauger	727,000	+ 28	- 47	568,000	1,370,000
Lake herring	481,000	- 18	+ 21	589,000	397,000
Tullibee	286,000	+ 2	+ 51	291,000	190,000
Whitefish	483,000	+ 7	+ 1	451,000	478,000
Halibut	1,027,000	- 15	+107	1,210,000	495,000
Shrimp	824,000	- 21	+ 73	1,045,000	477,000

Canadian Cold-storage Holdings Down 8 percent in March

On April 1, Canadian cold-storage holdings were down to 17,438,000 pounds, according to preliminary data from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. They have continued under those of a year ago in contrast to stocks in United States cold-storage plants. The latter have consistently held more frozen fishery products than on the comparable date in the previous year since July 1940.

Canadian Cold-storage Holdings

Item	Apr. 1, 1942	April 1 compared with Mar. 1, 1942	April 1 compared with Apr. 1, 1941	Mar. 1, 1942	Apr. 1, 1941
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Frozen fresh fish					
Total holdings	17,438,000	- 8	- 9	18,855,000	19,243,000
Important items:					
Cod:					
Whole	393,000	+13	+40	348,000	280,000
Fillets	694,000	+64	-67	423,000	2,102,000
Salmon	2,951,000	-17	-11	3,551,000	3,313,000
Sea herring	5,905,000	- 8	+ 4	6,405,000	5,671,000
Halibut	1,318,000	-21	+ 4	1,672,000	1,270,000
Whitefish	583,000	-38	-31	939,000	848,000
Pickerel	836,000	+17	-11	715,000	936,000
Tullibee	850,000	+33	+ 6	637,000	805,000
Frozen smoked fish					
Total holdings	790,000	-13	-43	904,000	1,396,000
Important items					
Finnan haddie	176,000	+56	-34	113,000	267,000
Fillets: Cod, haddock, etc.	269,000	-13	-60	310,000	674,000
Sea herring kippers	263,000	-21	- 5	331,000	277,000

Freezings of Fishery Products in Canadian Plants Down 39 percent in March

Freezings of fresh fishery products in Canada during March were well under totals for both the previous month and for March 1941, according to preliminary data collected by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Large increases in freezings of cod and haddock fillets during March as compared with February were insufficient to compensate for the drop of nearly 1,900,000 pounds in the production of frozen herring.

Freezings of Fishery Products in Canadian Cold-storage Plants

Item	March 1942	March compared with Feb. 1942	March compared with Mar. 1941	February 1942	March 1941
	Pounds	Percent	Percent	Pounds	Pounds
Frozen fresh fish					
Total freezings	2,490,000	- 39	- 44	4,107,000	4,413,000
Important items:					
Cod:					
Whole	103,000	- 24	- 1	136,000	104,000
Fillets	1,032,000	+146	- 36	419,000	1,608,000
Haddock fillets	358,000	+404	+ 8	71,000	332,000
Salmon	61,000	*	+408	*	12,000
Sea herring	686,000	- 73	- 47	2,561,000	1,286,000
Frozen smoked fish					
Total freezings	811,000	+212	- 43	260,000	1,429,000
Important items:					
Finnan haddie	223,000	+233	+ 10	67,000	202,000
Fillets: Cod, haddock, etc.	530,000	+317	- 53	127,000	1,123,000
Sea herring kippers	56,000	- 7	- 39	60,000	92,000

* Data not available.

CANNED FISH TRADE

Unsold Canned Salmon Stocks in Canners' Hands Only 58,000 Cases at End of March

Unsold stocks of canned salmon in canners' hands were near the vanishing point at the end of March, according to the report of the Association of Pacific Fisheries. As compared with a 10-year average of about 2 million cases usually unsold at this time, packers now hold less than 58,000 cases.

Canned Salmon Unsold--Standard Cases

Item	March 31, 1942	February 28, 1942	March 31, 1941
Chinook or king	12,594	18,517	47,990
Puget Sound sockeye	10,900	16,310	26,653
Alaska red	2,041	3,284	84,195
Coho, silver, and medium red	1,462*	2,407*	45,749
Pink	16,607	40,184	111,201
Chum	10,752	47,890	43,138
Blueback	2,273	-	455
Steelhead	1,294	1,519	3,826
Total	57,923	130,111	363,207

*Does not include coho talls.

Canned Salmon Quotations Limited by Lack of Supplies

Canned salmon was practically off the market on April 1 with only a few pinks being offered at prices between $2.00 and $2.25 per dozen for 1-pound talls, according to the Service's Seattle Market News office. Some chum salmon were available at $1.90 to $2.00 per dozen 1-pound talls. Alaska red salmon sold out at $4.00 per dozen for 1-pound talls and Puget Sound sockeyes at $4.50 for 1-pound flats and $2.75 to $3.00 for half-pound flats.

Shrimp Packers Inactive in March

Falling farther behind recent years with each month's pack the shrimp canneries in the Gulf and South Atlantic States under the Seafood Inspection Service of the U. S. Food and Drug Administration packed only 2,150 cases in March, according to the Service's New Orleans office.

Wet and Dry Pack Shrimp in All Sizes in Tin and Glass--Standard Cases

MONTH			SEASON		
1942	1942	1941	1941-1942	1940-1941	5-yr.average
Mar.1-Mar.28	Feb.1-Feb.28	Mar.2-Mar.29	July 1-Mar.28	July 1-Mar.29	July 1-Apr.1
2,150	15,847	7,024	748,823	909,235	986,091

Due to the small pack, the majority of the packers were not quoting prices on April 1. Quotations reported to the Service's office for canned shrimp in the usual wholesale quantities in plain No. 1, standard tins, f.o.b. point of production, follow.

Canned Shrimp Prices--Per Dozen Tins

Item	April 1, 1942	March 1, 1942	April 1, 1941
WET PACK			
Small	$1.90-2.20	$1.90-2.10, few 1.85	$1.20-1.25
Medium	2.00-2.30	2.00-2.25, few 1.95	1.25-1.45
Large	2.10-2.40	2.10-2.40, few 2.05	1.30-1.45
Jumbo or Extra Large	2.20-2.60	2.20-2.50, few 2.60	1.35-1.55
DRY PACK			
Small	$1.90-2.15	$1.90-2.10	$1.20-1.25
Medium	2.00-2.25	2.00-2.25	1.25-1.45
Large	2.10-2.35	2.10-2.35	1.30-1.45
Jumbo or Extra Large	2.20-2.50	2.20-2.50	1.35-1.55

February Pack of Tuna Declines 92 percent

California canners packed only 10,147 cases of tuna during February--131,141 cases less than was canned in the same month last year. Information released by the California Bureau of Marine Fisheries shows that the California pack of this item during January and February was less than one-third the total canned during the first two months of 1941.

The canning of mackerel also showed a marked decline during February, as compared with the same month in 1941. As a result, the canned pack for the first two months of 1942 was less than half the volume for the same period last year.

California Pack of Tuna and Mackerel--Standard Cases 1/

Item	February 1942	January 1942	February 1941	Two months ending with February 1942	Two months ending with February 1941
	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases
Tuna:					
Albacore	-	312	-	312	-
Bonito	1,503	1,808	5,749	3,311	7,153
Striped	1,269	5,706	24,735	6,975	33,427
Yellowfin	6,193	50,672	65,100	56,865	149,872
Yellowtail	958	-	271	958	2,098
Flakes	224	6,882	11,073	7,106	31,570
Tonno style	-	-	2,745	-	4,074
Total	10,147	65,380	109,673	75,527	228,194
Mackerel	16,780	60,310	95,129	77,090	157,660

1/ Standard cases of tuna represent cases of 48 7-ounce cans, while those of mackerel represent cases of 48 1-pound cans.

Greater Share of California Sardine Catch Used for Canned Pack

Landings of sardines in the Southern District of California continued in March after the cessation of fishing in the Central District during the week ending February 20, according to California Sardine Institute and State Division of Fish and Game figures. On March 20, the combined canned pack for all districts was 5,135,000 standard cases, 71 percent greater than on the corresponding date last year. Landings were only 29 percent larger and the production of meal 18 percent higher, indicating that a greater share of the catch was canned than is the normal practice.

California Sardine Landings, Canned Pack, and Byproducts

Item	Unit	MONTH			SEASON	
		1942	1942	1941	1941 - 42	1940 - 41
		Feb.28-Mar.20	Jan.31-Feb.27	Mar.1-Mar.21	Aug.1 to-- Mar.20	Aug.1 to-- Mar.21
Landings	Tons	6,955	24,656	1,098	582,329	451,121
Canned sardines (48 lbs.)	Std. cases	123,756	335,319	14,269	5,134,734	2,997,587
		February	January	February	Feb.28	Feb.28
Meal	Tons	3,095	4,972	6,125	84,284	71,163
Oil	Gals.	188,977	442,140	361,542	16,476,018	12,394,490

Canned California sardines are entirely off the market, according to a report of the Service's Seattle Market News office on April 1. They were sold out, f.o.b. California shipping points, at prices up to 25 cents per case higher than March quotations.

Canned California Sardine Quotations--Per Case

Item	Cans per case	April 2, 1942	March 2, 1942	April 1, 1941
Tomato or mustard sauce:				
1-lb. oval	48	$4.75-5.00	$4.65	$3.00-3.40
1-lb. tall	48	4.00	3.75	2.50-2.65
Natural:				
1-lb. oval	48	4.65-4.75	4.55	3.00-3.40
1-lb. tall	48	3.75	3.50	2.15-2.25

Sardine meal and oil also were sold out at ceiling prices.

GIANT KELP FURNISHES SATISFACTORY SUBSTITUTE FOR A PORTION OF THE AGAR STOCK

When it was found that it would be impossible to obtain imports of agar from the Orient due to the spread of the war, Service technologists at the College Park, Maryland, Technological Laboratory began investigations with other products of marine plants as substitutes.

It has been found that one substance prepared from the giant kelp is satisfactory for substitution of approximately one-half the agar used in laboratories for bacteriological cultures. That is, the culture media can be prepared and used successfully in which one-half the agar has been replaced by a trade product made from kelp. While not the final solution to the problem, this may mean the equivalent of doubling the present stock of agar used in bacteriological work, which use constitutes by far the greatest demand for agar. The results obtained by Service technologists are being verified in the laboratories of other Government agencies before the detailed information can be released. Research will be continued for other substitutes which may be used to replace agar entirely.

THE COVER PAGE

The cover picture was taken in Carquin, Peru, during the recent survey of the Peruvian fisheries by the United States Fishery Mission consisting of R. H. Fiedler, Chief, Norman D. Jarvis, Associate Technologist, and Milton J. Lobell, Fishery Engineer. This scene is typical of fishing villages along the coast, and was taken at a time when the fisherman were landing.

The survey covered all phases of the fisheries. It commenced in January 1941, and was completed in September 1941. A comprehensive report of more than 400 pages has been prepared and submitted for delivery to the Peruvian Government. Since the cost of the survey was borne by the Peruvian Government, no copies of the report will be immediately available. It is hoped, however, that at some future date, approval will be forthcoming from the Peruvian Government to publish those parts which would be of interest to the fishing industry of the United States.

FISHERY TRADE INDICATORS

(Expressed in Thousands of Pounds)

Item	Month	Latest Month	Same month a year ago	Previous month
FRESH FISH LANDINGS				
Boston, Mass.	February	7,318	21,914	10,832
Gloucester, Mass.	do	3,583	4,672	3,668
Portland, Maine	do	659	1,121	887
Boston, Gloucester, and Portland:				
Cod	do	1,838	6,153	1,566
Haddock	do	3,968	11,434	5,581
Pollock	do	266	1,709	1,442
Rosefish	do	4,658	6,568	5,419
FISH RECEIPTS, CHICAGO[1]				
Salt-water fish	do	1,918	1,513	1,930
Fresh-water fish	do	2,963	3,693	2,973
Shellfish, etc.	do	595	670	878
By truck	do	1,787	1,796	1,827
By express	do	688	739	725
By freight	do	3,002	3,341	3,229
COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS[2]				
New York, N. Y.:				
Salt-water fish	March	4,284	2,774	5,294
Fresh-water fish	do	1,415	2,128	1,335
Shellfish, etc.	do	1,426	772	2,055
Boston, Mass.:				
Salt-water fish	do	5,772	6,403	6,632
Fresh-water fish	do	7	30	13
Shellfish, etc.	do	738	310	1,142
Chicago, Ill.:				
Salt-water fish	do	2,386	1,547	3,079
Fresh-water fish	do	2,913	3,422	3,275
Shellfish, etc.	do	1,087	695	1,372
Unclassified	do	185	143	245
United States:				
Cod fillets	do	1,215	1,340	1,615
Haddock fillets	do	3,384	2,701	4,689
Halibut	do	5,212	3,547	7,293
Mackerel	do	1,976	2,251	3,994
Pollock fillets	do	1,594	3,231	2,670
Rosefish fillets	do	3,085	552	2,549
Salmon	do	5,361	4,439	7,324
Whiting	do	2,837	3,199	4,763
Shrimp	do	6,859	3,182	8,420
New England, all species	do	9,955	12,133	13,446
Middle Atlantic, all species	do	14,860	9,641	21,055
South Atlantic, all species	do	3,076	2,366	4,723
North Central East, all species	do	15,369	11,825	18,595
North Central West, all species	do	3,639	2,772	5,129
South Central, all species	do	4,405	1,985	5,686
Pacific, all species	do	10,701	8,735	13,848

1/ Includes all arrivals as reported by express and rail terminals, and truck receipts as reported by wholesale dealers including smokers.

2/ Data for individual cities are as of the last Thursday of the month, except those for Boston which are for the last Wednesday of the month, and those for geographical areas and the total of the United States which are as of the 15th of the month.

NOTE:--Data for the latest month are subject to revision.

SOURCES OF FEDERAL FISHERY STATISTICS

Fish and Wildlife Service Reports

Current Fishery Statistics:

Landings at Important Fishing Ports.--Monthly and annual detailed data: Landings at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, by poundage and value, and catch by species, gear and bank; and receipts and landings at Seattle, Wash., and operations of Pacific Halibut Fleet.

Freezings and Cold-storage Holdings of Fishery Products.--Monthly and annual data on fishery products frozen and held.

Production of Manufactured Fishery Products.--Annual information on production of canned fishery products and byproducts; production of fresh and frozen packaged fish; summary of quantity and value of all manufactured fishery products; and preliminary statements on canned salmon and oyster packs and production of fresh-water mussel-shell products.

Sectional Surveys.--Annual information on number of commercial fishermen; kind and quantity of fishing gear operated; poundage and value of catch; employment in fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments; and data on the production of manufactured fishery products for: New England, Middle Atlantic, Chesapeake Bay, South Atlantic and Gulf, Pacific Coast and Lake States, and Alaska.

Fishery Market News:

Market News Reports.--Daily, monthly and annual mimeographed reports on production, movement, prices, storage and canning of fishery products from 6 field offices.

Market News Review.--"Fishery Market News", a periodic current review of fishery marketing information.

Annual Statistical Digest:

Fishery Statistics of the United States.--Summary of Current Fishery Statistics, usually in greater detail.

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce Reports

Imports of Fish and Fish Products.--Monthly advance statement on poundage and value of imported edible fishery products by country of origin.

Exports of Meat and Canned Fish.--Monthly advance statement on exports of canned salmon, sardines, shrimp, and other shellfish, to individual foreign countries.

Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States.--Report on total poundage and value of fishery products imported and exported.

Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States.--Annual report on imports and exports with principal items shown separately.

Bureau of the Census Reports

Production, Consumption, and Stocks of Fats and Oils.--Quarterly statement on domestic production, imports, exports, and stocks of cod and cod-liver oil, whale oil, and other fish oils.

Factory Consumption of Primary Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils, by Classes of Products.--Advance annual report on poundage of marine-animal (whale oil) and fish oil utilized in manufacture of various edible and industrial products.

Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils.--Annual summary combining two reports above, plus comparative figures for preceding years.

Quarterly Canned Foods Stock Report.--Information on canners and distributors stocks of canned salmon, sardines, and tuna.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Reports

Wholesale Prices.--June and December issues contain average monthly wholesale prices of canned pink and red salmon, pickled cod and herring, salt mackerel, and smoked salmon for each of the preceding six months.

Retail Prices.--Monthly report containing retail prices of pink and red salmon.

Tariff Commission Reports

Periodic Reports.--Include studies on specific fisheries or fishery problems.

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